

What is Claimed:

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- 1 1. A method for code-tracking in CDMA communication systems  
2 comprising  
3 a) receiving of an electromagnetic signal (10) being a  
4 superposition of a plurality of signal components of  
5 different signal paths ( $i$ ),  
6 b) digitising (14) the received signal (10, 13),  
7 c) distributing the digitised signal (15) to receiver  
8 fingers (1, 2, ...,  $N$ ) each of which is  
9 assigned to one of the signal paths,  
10 d) distributing the digitised signal (110, 111) to a  
11 detection stream and a synchronising stream,  
12 e) decorrelating (121, 122) the digitised signal by a  
13 code sequence (112) in the synchronisation stream and  
14 f) reducing the interference of at least one other  
15 ( $j \neq i$ ) than the signal component of the assigned  
16 signal path ( $i$ ) with the signal component of the  
17 assigned signal path ( $i$ ) in at least one of the  
18 receiver fingers.
  - 1 2. A method according to claim 1, wherein  
2 step f) comprises a subtraction (130) of an interference  
3 signal from the decorrelated digitised signal (116).
  - 1 3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein  
2 the subtraction takes place on symbol rate ( $1/T$ ).

- 1 4. A method according to one of the preceding claims,  
2 wherein interference of other signal components ( $j \neq i$ )  
3 than the assigned signal component ( $i$ ) is reduced in all  
4 receiver fingers ( $1, 2, \dots, N$ ).
- 1 5. A method according to one of the preceding claims,  
2 wherein step e) comprises decorrelating (121, 122) the  
3 digitised signal by multiplying the digitised signal  
4 with a complex-conjugate pseudo-noise code sequence  
5 (112).
- 1 6. A method according to one of the preceding claims,  
2 wherein an early-late timing error detection (102) is  
3 provided in the synchronisation stream.
- 1 7. A method according to one of the preceding claims,  
2 wherein after step f) the real part (118,  $\tilde{x}$ ) of the  
3 interference reduced complex signal ( $\tilde{y}$ ) is determined  
4 (126).
- 1 8. A method according to one of claims 1 to 6, wherein  
2 before step f) the real part ( $x$ ) of the complex signal  
3 (116,  $y$ ) is determined (126).
- 1 9. A method according to one of the preceding claims,  
2 wherein after step f) the interference reduced signal  
3 (118,  $\tilde{x}$ ) is filtered (103) in a step g).
- 1 10. A method according to claim 9, wherein  
2 steps e), f) and g) provide a code-tracking (101) of the  
3 digitised signal (111).

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- 1 11. A method according to claim 10, wherein  
2 the code-tracking (101) provides an estimated timing  
3 delay ( $\hat{\tau}^{(i)}$ ) of the signal component of the assigned  
4 signal path ( $i$ ).
- 1 12. A method according to one of the preceding claims,  
2 wherein prior to step f) the digitised signal (111) is  
3 distributed to a first and second correlator (121, 122).
- 1 13. A method according to claim 12, wherein  
2 the digitised signal (111) is time-shifted prior to  
3 feeding it to the second correlator (122) providing late  
4 and early estimates (113, 114) as output of the first  
5 and second correlator (121, 122), respectively.
- 1 14. A method according to claim 13, wherein  
2 the early and late estimates (114, 113) are subtracted  
3 (124) yielding an intermediate signal (117).
- 1 15. A method according to claim 14, wherein the intermediate  
2 signal (117) is multiplied (125) with reconstructed  
3 transmitted symbols (115).
- 1 16. A rake receiver (17) for processing a received  
2 electromagnetic signal (10) being a superposition of  
3 signal components of different signal paths, comprising  
4 a plurality of receiver fingers (1, 2, ..., N), wherein  
5 at least one of the receiver fingers (1, 2, ..., N) is  
6 adapted to receive a signal component assigned to one of  
7 the signal paths ( $i$ ) with  $i \in \{1, \dots, N\}$   
8 a timing error detector (102) for estimating an error  
9 of a delay ( $\hat{\tau}_k^{(i)}$ ) of the signal component of the assigned

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10 signal path (i) and  
11 an interference reduction device (131) adapted to  
12 reduce the interference of at least one other signal  
13 component (j) with  $j \neq i$  and  $j \in \{1, \dots, N\}$  with the said  
14 signal component of the assigned signal path (i).

1 17. A rake receiver (17) according to claim 16, wherein  
2 the interference reduction device (131) comprises an  
3 interference computation module (132) being adapted to  
4 receive complex path weights ( $c_k^{(j)}$ , 134) and path delays  
5 ( $\hat{t}_k^{(i)}$ ,  $\hat{t}_k^{(j)}$ ) to compute an interference signal of at least  
6 one other signal component (j) with the said signal  
7 component of the assigned signal path (i).

1 18. A rake receiver (17) according to claim 16 or 17,  
2 wherein  
3 the interference reduction device (131) is adapted to  
4 subtract (130) the interference signal of at least one  
5 other signal component (j) from the said signal  
6 component of the assigned signal path (i).

1 19. A rake receiver (17) according to one of the preceding  
2 device claims, comprising an A/D-converter (14) upstream  
3 of the receiver fingers (1, 2, ..., N), for digitising  
4 the received signal (10, 13).

1 20. A rake receiver (17) according to one of the preceding  
2 device claims, wherein the timing error detector (102)  
3 comprises an early-late gate timing error detector.

1 21. A rake receiver (17) according to one of the preceding  
2 device claims, wherein each receiver finger (1, 2, ...,

3         $N$ ) comprises a loop filter (103).

1    22. A rake receiver (17) according to claim 21, wherein  
2        each receiver finger (1, 2, ...,  $N$ ) comprises a code-  
3        tracking loop (101) comprising the timing error detector  
4        (102) and the loop filter (103).

1    23. A rake receiver (17) according to claim 22, wherein  
2        the code-tracking loop (101) is adapted to estimate a  
3        timing delay ( $\hat{\tau}^{(i)}$ ) of the signal component of the  
4        assigned signal path ( $i$ ).

1    24. A rake receiver (17) according to one of the preceding  
2        device claims, wherein the timing error detector (102)  
3        is adapted to provide pseudo-noise (112) decorrelation  
4        (121, 122).

1    25. A rake receiver (17) according to one of the preceding  
2        device claims, which is adapted for direct-sequence  
3        code-division multiple access communication.

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